

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8753

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 1215

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT REACTION REPORT FEB 5

FOLLOWINT SENT ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE WASHDC, KARACHI,
LAHORE, NEW DELHI, KABUL AND DACCA DATED FEB 05,1975.

REPEATING FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD USIS

FOR IOP/M, IPS, IO GN INA, STATE NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652 N/A

SUB: CURRENT REACTION FEB G 5

BHUTTO VISIT: ALL MAJOR URDU NEWSPAPERS LED WITH REPORTS BHUTTO
"WILL HOLD IMPORTANT TALKS WITH FORD TODAY." ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PRESS GENERALLY CARRIED BRIEF FRONTPAGE REPORTS ON WASHINGTON
ARRIVAL.

MOST NEWSPAPERS CARRIED NYT, WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS AND HERALD
TRIBUNE REPORTS, COMMENTS ON ARMS CONTROVERSY GENERALLY LEAVING
IMPRESSION OF RELAXATION ON EMBARGO. FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF
HEADLINES ON SUCH REPORTS:

NPT MORNING NEWS: "U.S. PAPERS SAY GOOD CASE FOR RELAXING
ARMS EMBARGO."

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NPT MASHRIQ: "EMBARGO ON US ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN WILL

BE LIFTED."

INDEPENDENT JANG: "US WILL RELAX BAN ON ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN."

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: INDEPENDENT JANG (WITH LARGEST CIRCULATION) COMMENTING ON BHUTTO VISIT ARGUED STRONGLY FOR LIFTING OF EMBARGO. IT SAID, QUOTE PAKISTAN VIEWS US ARMS EMBARGO AS UNREASONABLE AND UNNECESSARY. LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES, PAKISTAN IS ALSO ANXIOUS ABOUT ITS INTEGRITY. US DOES NOT CONSIDER SUCH ANXIETY AS UNNATURAL AND SUPPLIES ARMS TO MANY COUNTRIES. A LARGE AMOUNT OF THESE ARMS IS REACHING AREAS WHERE WARS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT REPEATEDLY. IF US DOES NOT WANT TO STOP ARMS RACE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE GLOBE, WHY IT HAS ADOPTED THIS POLICY FOR SUBCONTINENT? THIS POLICY, IN PRACTICE, AMOUNTS TO WEAKENING PAKISTAN FROM BATTLE FIELD TO CONFERENCE TABLE. BECAUSE OF THIS, BALANCE OF POWER IN SUBCONTINENT IS CONTINUOUSLY BEING DISRUPTED. IN FACT, THIS IS THE CONDITION WHICH MAY SPARK OFF ANOTHER WAR. PAKISTAN CANNOT FORCE US TO LIFT EMBARGO. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT US STAND IN THIS RESPECT IS WEAK. WE WANT TO TELL PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS COMPANIONS THAT AFTER OBTAINING ARMS, PAKISTAN WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY ITS ROLE IN A BETTER WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN SUBCONTINENT PEACEFULLY. THIS IS THE SAME THEORY ACCORDING TO WHICH US INCREASED ITS DEFENSE BUDGET BY EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS ON HEARING THAT USSR WILL BE SPENDING SIXTY PERCENT MORE ON ITS DEFENSE. UNQUOTE

INDEPENDENT NEW TIMES SAID, QUOTE MR. BHUTTO WANTS NOTHING BUT PEACE IN SUBCONTINENT. HAD INDIA NOT BEEN SURE OF THAT, IT IS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL IF IT WOULD HAVE RETURNED ALL OF PAKISTAN'S 90,000 POWS AND ITS 5,000 SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY. WHEN SIMLA AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, THE OPPOSITION TRIED TO MALIGN MR. BHUTTO THAT KASHMIR DISPUTE HAD BEEN BURIED IN THE BARGAIN. EVENTS HAVE PROVED VERACITY OF HIS ASSURANCES THAT NOTHING OF THE SORT HAD HAPPENED. KASHMIR QUESTION STANDS AS A QUESTION MARK BEFORE CONSCIENCE OF WORLD. SHALL WE GO ABOUT OUR BUSINESS IN WORLD LIKE SAVAGES AND BARBARIANS OR LIKE REASONABLE PEACE-LOVING HUMAN BEINGS? IT IS, THEREFORE, VERY SHALLOW TO THINK THAT IF PAKISTAN WANTS US ARMS EMBARGO OF 1965 TO BE REMOVED, ITS INTENTIONS ARE MILITARISTIC. WHATEVER JAN SANGH AND SAWARAN SINGH MIGHT SAY, THEY KNOW IN THE HEART OF THEIR HEARTS THAT, DESPITE UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL DIFFERENCES OVER KASHMIR, PAKISTAN DOES NOT WANT A WAR. ITS DESIGNS ARE NOT OFFENSIVE. WHAT PAKISTAN, ON THE OTHER HAND WANTS IS TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENCES. NOBODY CAN SAY THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS PEACEFUL INTENTIONS TOWARDS IT. NOR SHOULD IT BE FORGOTTEN THAT AFGHANISTAN IS GETTING ALL SORTS OF ARMS FROM RUSSIA. WE DO NOT SAY THAT RUSSIA GIVES THEM SO THAT THEY WOULD BE USED AGAINST PAKISTAN. OUR CONTENTION IS SIMPLY THIS THAT, INFERRING FROM THAT COUNTRY'S FULMINATIONS AGAINST PAKISTAN, WE COULD BE

LEGITIMATELY AFRAID OF THEIR USE AGAINST US.. PAKISTAN GETS NOTHING EITHER FROM AMERICA OR RUSSIA. PAKISTAN IS, THEREFORE, AT A DECIDELY GREAT DISADVANTAGE. IF IT IS TO CONTINUE ITS EXISTENCE, PAKISTAN'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE ADEQUATELY MET. LET US HOPE THAT AMERICA SHALL AT LONG LAST WAKE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS AND TO ITS INTEREST IN PEACE IN INDO-PAKISTAN SUBCONTINENT. UNQUOTE

RULING PEOPLE'S PARTY DAILY MUSAWAAT IN SECOND EDIT IN A ROW REITERATED DEMAND FOR RESUMPTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES SAYING QUOTE PAKISTAN WANTS TO SEE A POLITICAL SITUATION IN SUBCONTINENT AND SOUTH ASIA IN WHICH EVERY COUNTRY HAS GUARANTEE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND NO COUNTRY, BECAUSE OF ITS VAST POPULATION AND AREA, TRIES TO ESTABLISH ITS HEGEMONY. THIS IS COMMON STAND OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. INDIA'S ARMAMENT RACE IS MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN FOR PAKISTAN. US HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SUBCONTINENT POLITICS. IT HAS TRIED TO KEEP RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND PAKISTAN ON EQUAL LEVEL. THIS IS PROVED BY ITS ARMS EMBARGO ON BOTH COUNTRIES IN 1965. DURING LAST TEN YEARS, INDIA HAS NOT ONLY BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ARMS BUT HAS ALSO BECOME NUCLEAR POWER, THUS CREATING SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN POSITION OF BOTH COUNTRIES. IF US REALIZES THIS DIFFERENCE, IT WILL HAVE TO REVISE ITS POLICY TOWARD SUBCONTINENT AND NEW ERA OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND US WILL ALSO DEPEND ON IT. FUTURE US POLICY WILL MAKE CLEAR HOW IT VIEWS THIRD WORLD STRUGGLE, AS PAKISTAN'S STAND IS PART OF THIRD WORLD'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRUGGLE. IF US ACCEPTS RIGHTFULNESS OF PAKISTAN'S STAND IT WILL MEAN IT IS DEMONSTRATING REALISM TOWARD THIRD WORLD. UNQUOTE

NPT MASHRIQ (SECOND LARGEST) STRESSED NEED FOR INCREASE IN US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IT SAID, QUOTE IN PAST PAKISTAN HAD BEEN RECEIVING VAST ECONOMIC AID FROM US, BUT ITS QUANTUM HAS DECREASED NOW. NO DOUBT US ITSELF FACING SEROUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, BUT IF UNCLASSIFIED

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BECAUSE OF DECREASE IN US AID, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO GET COMPLICATED, US WILL NOT REMAIN SAFE FROM ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFECTS. US SHOULD REALISTICALLY REVISE ITS AID POLICY. DURING PREMIER BHUTTO'S VISIT, QUESTION OF SUPPLY OF ARMS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN UP. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT US POLICY IN THIS REGARD HAS BEEN UNJUST AND UNREALISTIC. ONE SHOULD HOPE US WILL KEEP IN VIEW PAKISTAN'S INTEREST AND REQUIREMENTS OF JUSTICE IN THIS REGARD. UNQUOTE
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